

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Ministry of Commerce do not maintain state-wise data of exports. The total export from India to Bangladesh, Burma and Thailand during the last three years are given below:

Country	Exports in Rupees (In Cr.)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Burma	71.10	100.94	140.61
Thailand	1276.65	1581.91	1577.09
Bangladesh	2024.13	3509.09	2912.41

(b) The Central Government in its Export-Import Policy (1997-2002), have provided that Export Houses, Star Trading Houses etc. will be given special Import Licences at 1% of the total turnover from the North Eastern States. The other steps which have been taken to facilitate trade between the North Eastern States and East Asian Countries, include banking, customs, immigration and other trading arrangements including border trade.

(c) The border trade via Moreh in Manipur corresponding to Tamu in Myanmar has been operationalised from 12.4.95. The border trade via the second point, as envisaged in the Border Trade Agreement between India and Myanmar, Viz Champai in Mizoram corresponding to Rih in Myanmar is likely to be operationalised as soon as the infrastructural facilities and other arrangements are completed.

(d) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

#### India's International Trade

2670. SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth in India's international trade in terms of volume and value during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have drawn up any new strategy to boost the foreign trade including identification of products and prospective markets including exports diversification; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The growth in India's international trade in terms of value of exports in US\$ is as follows:-

	Exports	Imports
1994-95	18.4%	22.9%
1995-96	20.8%	28.0%
1996-97 (P)	4.1%	5.1%

The volume growth in India's international trade as

reflected by the quantum index is available for the years 1994-95 & 1995-96 from the DGCI&S and gives the following growth rates:-

	Exports	Imports
1994-95	14.0%	24.0%
1995-96	31.1%	26.2%

(b) and (c) The Ministry is preparing a medium-term export strategy covering sectoral and directional strategy aspects including export diversification for achieving an accelerated export growth. The objective of medium-term strategy is to achieve sustained exports worth \$75-90 billion by 2002 and to attain one per cent share of world exports. The strategy is based on extensive analysis of data and interaction with trade and industry.

#### Acquisition of Land

2671. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the last several years, BCCL had been reporting that the plot No. 177 of Mouza Lodna, Distt. Dhanbad, did not belong to the Lodna colliery and is thus not a part of nationalised coal company and now it has been proved that this entire land belongs to Lodna Colliery and is thus a nationalised property;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken against such misreporting and depriving thereby the nation of its assets for so long; and

(c) the action taken to take possession of the said land and its property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) In the year 1982, BCCL had reported that Plot No. 177 of Mouza Lodna over which the premises of Shalimar Tar Plant were situated was owned by M/s. Shalimar Tar Products Limited and not by Lodna Colliery of BCCL. This stand was based on the available papers/documents in possession of BCCL pertaining to the various lands which it inherited by virtue of nationalisation of coking coal mines.

Subsequently search for the relevant documents was carried out and it was revealed that Plot No. 177 was recorded in the name of erstwhile M/s. Turner Morrison and Co. Ltd. the Managing Agents of M/s. Lodna Colliery Co. Ltd. which was nationalised in 1971. Thus plot no. 177 stands vested with BCCL under relevant provisions of the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1971.

(b) The report of 1982 was based on the information available at that time. As the land records were not available readily, there was delay in finding out the status of the ownership of the land. As such this is not a case of mis-reporting.

(c) BCCL filed an eviction suit in 1991 vide case no. 101/91 in the Court of Estate Officer which was decided

in favour of BCCL. However, the owner of M/s. Shalimar Tar Products Ltd. has gone in appeal in the Court of the Distt. Judge of Dhanbad. The case is now pending in the Court of ADJ-IV, Dhanbad. Thus the matter is sub-judice.

**Representation Against New India Assurance Company Ltd.**

2672. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received representations from Employees Associations and Members of Parliament against victimisation of Trade Union functionaries by the management of New India Assurance Company Ltd. for their highlighting corruption and malpractices at various level; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to prevent victimisation and to undo the injustice done to the trade union functionaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These complaints were looked into both from vigilance and audit angles and necessary investigation has been carried out. In the light of the outcome of the report, the management of the Company did not find any irregularity. The report is also under investigation by the General Insurance Corp. of India. A senior executive from Head Office had also discussed the matter with the Trade Union functionary as well as the Officer Incharge in Delhi Region and during discussions, he assured that there need not be any apprehension in their mind about harassment or victimisation.

**Coal Mining Operation by Eastern Coalfields Ltd.**

2673. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Coalfields Ltd. has been carrying out coal mining operation outside the leasehold areas inspite of objections from the Government of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the ECL to regularise the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The coal mining rights are acquired by the nationalised coal companies including Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957. The ECL have not been carrying out coal mining operations in any area within the State of West Bengal without the mining rights acquired under any of the above-cited acts.

[*Translation*]

**Pension to LIC Employees**

2674. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India does not provide pension to its employees under Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide pension to the employees of Life Insurance Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) A Pension Scheme has already been introduced for the employees of LIC with effect from 1.11.1993. This scheme is applicable to those retired after 1.1.1986. The details are contained in the LIC (Employees) Pension Rules, 1995 which were laid on the Table of the House on 8.12.1995.

**P.L.S. Finance of Delhi**

2675. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn towards the news-item captioned "P.L.S. Company ka mamla C.B.I. ko" appearing in the *Hindustan* (Hindi daily) dated June 21, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the alleged fraud done by the company with the investors;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has handed over the investigation work to the Central Bureau of Investigation regarding large scale fraud with investors committed by the P.L.S. Finance of Delhi, a financial company; and

(d) if so, the time by which the action is likely to be taken by the Government against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India have reported that PLS Technical Ltd. is a non-banking, non-financial company. The company is alleged to have accepted deposits from a number of depositors by offering high returns. It is further alleged that a number of cheques issued by the company to its depositors were returned unpaid. A representation has also been received by the Prime Minister in the matter. Investigations have been initiated by the local police in the